

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are amended, claims 13, 14, 17 and 18 are canceled, and the specification is amended to correspond to the claim amendments. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found at least in the specification, drawings and claims. No new matter is added by the above amendments. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 10 are allowed.

II. Claim Objection

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 over informalities. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 13 and 17 are canceled. Thus this rejection is moot with respect to these claims.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, and 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and under 35 U.S.C. §101 for not specifically identifying whether the claims pertain to a method or an apparatus. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 have all been amended to specifically be directed to method claims. Furthermore, the specification has been amended to correspond to the claim amendments.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Double Patenting

The Office Action rejects claims 13 and 14 as being substantial duplicates of claims 1 and 2; and rejects claims 17 and 18 as being substantial duplicates of claims 6 and 7. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 13, 14, 17 and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Thus, this rejection is moot.

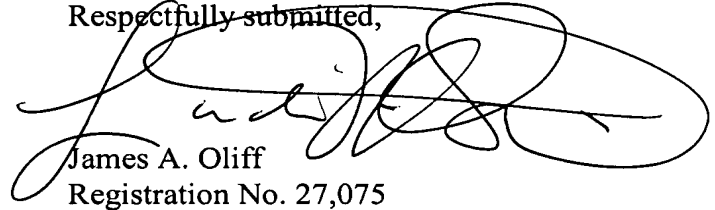
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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